

## THE CIVIL DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2018

**Background:** On January 13, 2018, Hawai'i's Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) sent out a false missile emergency alert to more than one million residents and visitors in Hawai'i. Although it was ultimately a false alarm, this catastrophic incident revealed deep preparedness gaps in Hawai'i and nationwide. The Civil Defense Preparedness Act of 2018 is a step towards ensuring that our high-risk State, local, territorial, and tribal governments receive funding to increase preparedness against nuclear, biological, and chemical attacks.

The 2018 Intelligence Community [Worldwide Threat Assessment](#) notes “*State efforts to modernize, develop, or acquire weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their delivery systems, or their underlying technologies constitute a major threat to the security of the United States, its deployed troops, and its allies.*”

### BILL SUMMARY

(To view the full text of this bill, [click here.](#))

- This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to modify two DHS grant programs, the [State Homeland Security Program \(SHSP\)](#) and the [Urban Area Security Initiative UASI](#), widening the focus of these programs to include Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) civil defense preparedness grants.
- This expansion would allow DHS to assist high-risk urban areas and states increase preparedness against weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, biological, and chemical attacks.
- More specifically, this bill would allow DHS grants to be used for joint projects with State, local, territorial, and tribal entities for the purchasing of, building, and related training of biological and chemical weapons attack protective equipment, and nuclear weapons attack building reinforcement.
- Grant eligibility would be determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security through consultation with the Secretary of Defense on which state or territory is highly susceptible to WMD threats, as well as the geography of a state or territory to the WMD threats.
- This bill would apply to all 56 states and territories, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Report:** The Secretary of Homeland Security would be required to submit a report to the House and Senate Committee on Homeland Security before the end of 2018, and every year after, and make available on the internet, specific information relating to the number of grants made as authorized in this bill.